

2001 Indiana Deer Season Summary



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Season Framework and Regulations

General

The 2001 Indiana deer hunting season was comprised of 4 segments: early archery (October 1 - December 2), firearms (November 17 - December 2), muzzleloader (December 8 - 23), and late archery (December 8 - January 6). This was the eighth year that the early archery season extended into and throughout the firearm season. This was the sixth year that the late archery season extended through the first Sunday in January rather than ending on the last day in December.

This was the fifth year that the crossbow was legal for hunting under an archery license by non-handicapped hunters. The crossbow was eligible for use only in the late archery season and only for antlerless deer. Special hunts were held at 1 military installation and at Muscatatuck and Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuges.

The archery bag limit was 2 deer. Hunters could take 1 deer on a regular archery license and an additional deer on an extra archery license. Either archery license could be used to take an either-sex deer, but a total of one (1) antlered deer could be taken by archers on the two licenses. The gun bag limit was 1 antlered deer during the firearms season and 1 either-sex deer during the muzzleloader season. However, hunters could only take a total of one (1) antlered deer during the combination of the firearm and the muzzleloader seasons. A single firearms license was required to hunt with any or all shotgun, muzzleloader, or handgun during the firearms season, and a muzzleloader license (separate from the firearms license) was required to hunt during the muzzleloader season. The resident deer license fee was \$13.75 and the nonresident fee was \$120.75. Resident landowners and lessees who hunted on land they own or lease and gained agricultural benefit from this land were exempt from purchasing deer licenses.

Antlerless Permits

For the last 18 years, antlerless deer could be taken during the firearms season by use of bonus county antlerless permits in addition to the above bag limits. Initially, the bonus county antlerless permits were limited to a specific quota for each county and were only valid for the specified county. One permit per hunter was available via a drawing. During the first years of the program, the left-over permits were destroyed. The program was liberalized in subsequent years. During the last year (1995), individual hunters could pick up multiple left-over permits. Left-over permits were available on a first come basis at one site in each specific county where the permits were valid.

The bonus antlerless program was revised in 1996 so that hunters did not have to apply through a drawing. 2001 was the sixth year of this modified antlerless bag limit and permit disbursement system. An unlimited number of permits were available at every deer license vendor statewide, and each permit could be used in any county in the state. Permits were available to both resident and non-resident hunters. Each permit was valid for 1 antlerless deer, and hunters were allowed to take up to 4 antlerless deer statewide. Hunters could not exceed individual county bag limits which ranged from 0 to 4. County bag limits were published in the Hunting and Trapping

Guide. Since 1993, the bonus county permits could be used during the muzzleloader and late archery seasons if they were not filled during the firearms season. In 2001, 8 counties had a bag limit of 1 and regulations which restricted the season of use for Bonus Antlerless permits to the last 4 days of the firearms season plus the muzzleloader and late archery seasons. Two counties had a Bonus Antlerless bag limit of zero (0).

The additional archery permit regulation which allowed hunters to take 2 additional antlerless deer with archery equipment in defined urban deer zones remained in place for a sixth year. Each deer required a separate additional archery license. The hunting season for urban deer coincided with the regular archery seasons, which meant that the total statewide archery bag limit remained at 4 deer within the urban deer zone.

Number of Deer Harvested

A total of 103,163 deer was legally harvested in Indiana during 2001. This harvest was a 4% increase from the 98,725 deer harvested during 2000. Compared to 2000, the antlered buck harvest of 48,357 represented a 8% increase from last year, and the antlerless harvest of 54,806 was up 1%. The increase in harvest can be attributed to the Division's effort from 1994 - 1997 to reduce the statewide deer population and the effort in 1998 - 2000 to begin stabilizing the population by slightly reducing antlerless harvest.

2001 INDIANA DEER HARVEST

(Percent change compared to 2000 is shown in parentheses)

<u>Number of deer harvested</u>			
Season	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Early Archery (Oct. 1 - Dec. 2)	12,016 (+10)	11,116 (+6)	23,132 (+8)
Firearms (Nov. 17 - Dec. 2)	33,660 (+6)	34,298 (-5)	67,958 (+0)
Muzzleloader (Dec. 8 - 23)	2,422 (+38)	8,667 (+27)	11,089 (+30)
Late Archery (Dec. 8 - Jan. 6)	259 (+40)	725 (-7)	984 (+2)
Totals	48,357 (+8)	54,806 (+1)	103,163 (+4)

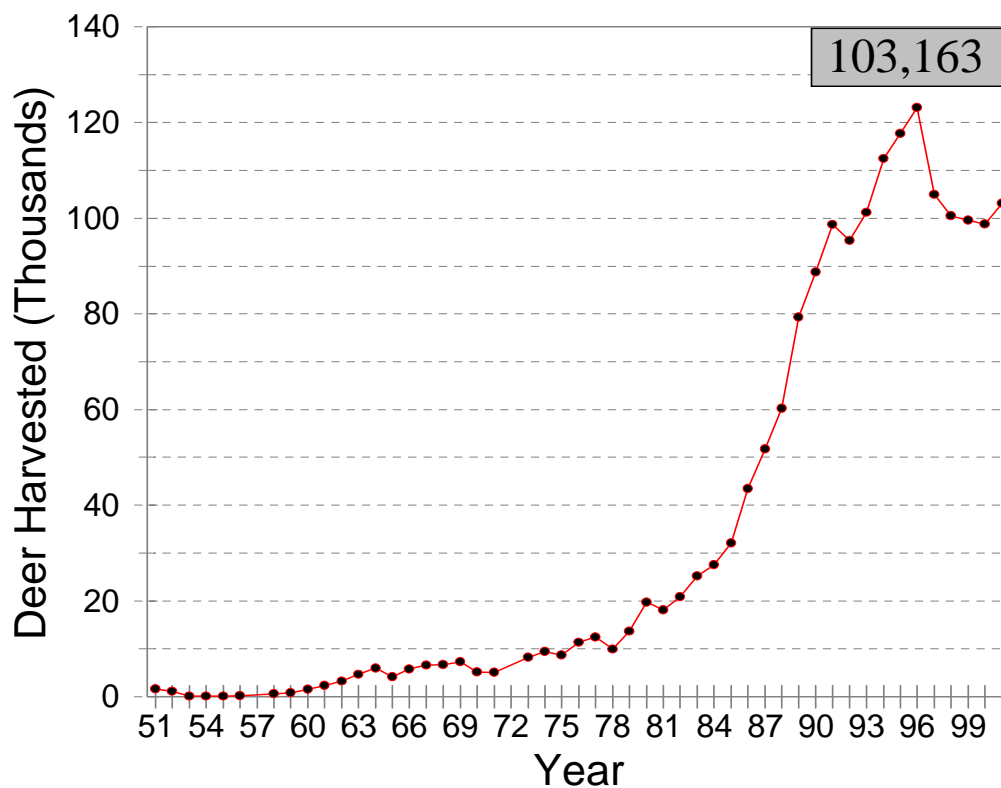
The early archery season harvest of 23,132 deer comprised 22.4% of the total harvest and was 7.8% higher than during 2000. The late archery season harvest of 984 deer comprised 1% of the total harvest and was 1.6% higher than during 2000. The combined early and late archery season harvest of 24,116 was 7.5% higher than the 22,424 deer harvested during 2000. Antlerless deer comprised 49% of the total archery harvest which was 1 percentage point lower than last year.

The total crossbow harvest for the year, including deer taken on handicapped hunter crossbow permits, was 410 animals compared with 281 for 2000. During the late archery season, the crossbow harvest was 20 deer compared with 54 for 2000.

The firearms season harvest of 67,958 deer was 0.3% higher than during 2000 and comprised 65.9% of the total harvest. Antlerless harvest (34,298) decreased 4.7% for this season, and the antlered buck harvest (33,660) increased 6.0%. Antlerless deer comprised 50% of the firearm season harvest compared to 53% in 2000.

The muzzleloader season harvest of 11,089 deer comprised 10.7% of the total harvest which was a 29.5% increase from 2000. As in past years, a very large percentage (78.2%) of the muzzleloader season harvest was composed of antlerless deer.

INDIANA DEER HARVEST, 1951-2001



The 2001 harvest represented the first increase in total harvest over the previous year since the peak harvest in 1996. Approximately 1.75 million deer have been legally harvested during the past 50 deer hunting seasons.

2001 DAILY HARVEST DURING THE CONCURRENT FIREARMS AND THE LAST 16 DAYS OF THE EARLY ARCHERY SEASON

			Antlered		Antlerless		Total	
Date		Day	N	%	N	%	N	%
17	November	Sat	12,573	63	7,378	37	19,951	29
18	November	Sun	5,527	57	4,184	43	9,711	14
19	November	Mon	1,693	55	1,361	45	3,054	4
20	November	Tue	1,782	52	1,616	48	3,398	5
21	November	Wed	1,541	49	1,633	51	3,174	5
22	November	Thu	2,438	46	2,871	54	5,309	8
23	November	Fri	2,200	43	2,887	57	5,087	7
24	November	Sat	1,097	40	1,624	60	2,721	4
25	November	Sun	947	38	1,570	62	2,517	4
26	November	Mon	357	34	702	66	1,059	2
27	November	Tue	328	38	536	62	864	1
28	November	Wed	192	32	417	68	609	1
29	November	Thu	228	32	478	68	706	1
30	November	Fri	389	32	841	68	1,230	2
1	December	Sat	1,343	30	3,166	70	4,509	7
2	December	Sun	1,173	27	3,218	73	4,391	6

Totals* 33,807 34,483 68,290

* Totals differ from those in previous table because date of harvest is not known for some registered deer and this table includes deer from both the firearms season and the last 16 days of the early archery season.

Age and Sex of the Harvest

The age and sex structure of the 2001 deer harvest was 46.9% adult males (antlered bucks), 30.8% adult females, 10.9% male fawns (button bucks) and 11.4% female fawns. About 55.5% of the antlered bucks and 40.4% of the adult does harvested during 2000 were yearlings (1.5 years old).

AGE AND SEX STRUCTURE OF THE HARVEST, 1987-2001

Year	Adults		Fawns		Total (%)
	Males (%)	Females (%)	Males (%)	Females (%)	
1987	29,530 (57)	11,139 (21)	6,164 (12)	4,945 (10)	51,778 (100)
1988	34,358 (57)	13,170 (22)	7,050 (12)	5,656 (9)	60,234 (100)
1989	40,503 (51)	19,464 (24)	10,737 (14)	8,614 (11)	79,318 (100)
1990	43,080 (48)	23,680 (27)	12,373 (14)	9,630 (11)	88,763 (100)
1991	41,593 (42)	31,211 (32)	14,626 (15)	11,253 (11)	98,683 (100)
1992	43,508 (46)	25,387 (27)	14,262 (15)	12,157 (13)*	95,314 (100)
1993	44,424 (44)	27,704 (27)	14,751 (15)	14,335 (14)*	101,214 (100)
1994	50,812 (45)	32,466 (29)	15,487 (14)	13,651 (12)*	112,416 (100)
1995	47,098 (40)	40,946 (35)	16,398 (14)	13,287 (11)*	117,729 (100)
1996	47,315 (38)	39,913 (32)	17,307 (14)	18,551 (15)*	123,086 (100)
1997	42,537 (41)	35,163 (34)	14,039 (13)	13,198 (12)*	104,937 (100)
1998	44,955 (45)	30,711 (31)	12,257 (12)	12,538 (12)*	100,461 (100)
1999	46,371 (46)	30,474 (31)	11,645 (12)	11,129 (11)*	99,618 (100)
2000	44,621 (45)	31,986 (32)	11,072 (11)	11,046 (11)*	98,725 (100)
2001	48,357 (47)	31,806 (31)	11,230 (11)	11,770 (11)*	103,163 (100)

* Number of adult and fawn females is projected from the % fawns in the females aged at the biological check stations (not from the ratio of fawn does to fawn bucks).

Distribution of the Harvest

The number of deer harvested in individual counties ranged from 70 to 2,664. Harvest exceeded 1,000 deer in 52 counties and 2,000 deer in 10 of those 52 counties. For the fifth consecutive year, no counties harvested more than 3,000 deer. The five counties with the highest total harvest were Steuben, Dearborn, Washington, Switzerland, and Franklin. The five counties with the lowest total harvest were Tipton, Benton, Marion, Hancock, and Hamilton. The antlered buck harvest exceeded 1,000 deer in 4 counties vs. 2 counties in 2000, while the antlerless harvest exceeded 1,000 deer in 13 counties vs. 15 counties in 2000. Antlerless deer comprised at least 50% of the total harvest in 67 of the state's 92 counties.

Harvest by Type of Hunting Equipment

Five types of equipment were legal for hunting deer during 2001: bow, shotgun, muzzleloader, handgun, and crossbow. The above equipment types accounted for 23.0, 57.9, 17.9, 1.5, and 0.4 percent of the total deer harvest respectively. Harvest by bow, muzzleloader, and crossbow increased 7%, 21%, 46% from 2000, while harvest by shotgun and by handgun decreased 1% and 3% respectively from 2000 levels.

HARVEST BY TYPE OF HUNTING EQUIPMENT, 1997-2001

(Percent of total is shown in parentheses)

Number of deer harvested/Year

Equipment type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Bow	20,300 (19)	18,360 (18)	20,010 (20)	22,131 (22)	23,765 (23)
Shotgun	67,715 (65)	65,847 (66)	62,849 (63)	59,994 (61)	59,688 (58)
Muzzleloader	15,081 (14)	14,149 (14)	14,739 (15)	14,704 (15)	17,738 (17)
Handgun	1,841 (2)	1,886 (2)	1,796 (2)	1,615 (2)	1,562 (2)
Crossbow (all) (late archery)		219 (0) (39)	224 (0) (50)	281 (0) (54)	410 (0) (20)
Totals	104,937	100,461	99,618	98,725	103,163

Harvest by License Status

Licensed hunters accounted for 89% of the total deer harvest. Landowners and lessees who hunted on their own land without a license and military personnel on official leave status accounted for 11% of the total deer harvest. Of the deer harvested by license-exempt hunters, 99% were taken by landowners/tenants and 1% by military personnel on leave.

Table 5. Number of deer harvested in each Indiana county during 2001

No. Harvested				No. Harvested			
County	Antlered	Antler-less	Total*	County	Antlered	Antler-less	Total*
Adams	195	264	459	Lawrence	791	867	1,657
Allen	525	635	1,160	Madison	207	309	516
Bartholomew	455	397	852	Marion	63	84	148
Benton	72	27	99	Marshall	769	809	1,578
Blackford	135	182	316	Martin	509	528	1,037
Boone	147	146	293	Miami	504	525	1,029
Brown	727	230	957	Monroe	712	802	1,514
Carroll	320	406	725	Montgomery	458	487	945
Cass	514	626	1,140	Morgan	577	701	1,278
Clark	783	827	1,610	Newton	415	392	808
Clay	499	591	1,090	Noble	853	1,173	2,026
Clinton	168	163	331	Ohio	432	638	1,070
Crawford	812	661	1,474	Orange	859	1,118	1,978
Daviess	566	644	1,209	Owen	712	613	1,325
Dearborn	1,105	1,405	2,510	Parke	992	1,283	2,275
Decatur	230	263	493	Perry	909	917	1,826
Dekalb	625	809	1,433	Pike	776	901	1,678
Delaware	261	408	669	Porter	416	660	1,076
Dubois	659	827	1,486	Posey	709	587	1,296
Elkhart	439	578	1,018	Pulaski	520	495	1,015
Fayette	348	357	705	Putnam	858	922	1,780
Floyd	227	240	467	Randolph	229	306	534
Fountain	547	687	1,235	Ripley	795	893	1,688
Franklin	946	1,359	2,305	Rush	152	159	311
Fulton	502	899	1,401	Saint Joseph	420	424	844
Gibson	614	655	1,269	Scott	368	492	861
Grant	258	282	540	Shelby	142	155	296
Greene	875	761	1,636	Spencer	663	652	1,316
Hamilton	134	115	249	Starke	479	520	999
Hancock	121	67	188	Steuben	1,168	1,496	2,664
Harrison	924	1,078	2,002	Sullivan	820	708	1,528
Hendricks	229	192	421	Switzerland	1,131	1,275	2,406
Henry	239	243	481	Tippecanoe	481	688	1,169
Howard	146	166	312	Tipton	49	22	70
Huntington	453	573	1,027	Union	216	252	468
Jackson	918	1,246	2,164	Vanderburg	245	412	657
Jasper	525	473	997	Vermillion	376	357	733
Jay	362	430	793	Vigo	596	627	1,224
Jefferson	894	1,158	2,052	Wabash	564	445	1,010
Jennings	717	771	1,488	Warren	531	584	1,115
Johnson	221	204	425	Warrick	727	478	1,205
Knox	442	414	856	Washington	1,075	1,351	2,426
Kosciusko	932	867	1,799	Wayne	369	397	766
Lagrange	715	1,210	1,926	Wells	246	312	558
Lake	394	391	786	White	366	431	797
Laporte	687	1,011	1,699	Whitley	502	613	1,115

* Totals may be off +/- 1 due to rounding during partitioning of harvested deer of unknown sex or count